

Interactive Discussion Strategies
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Theoretical Assertions

The way teachers talk with students hasn't changed much since Socrates.
Teacher Talk has been institutionalized over the past century.
I am not asking anyone to apologize for their past sins as a reading teacher.
If we don't pay conscious attention to the way we talk and the content of our talk,
it will never change.

Interactive Discussions

How To Talk to Each Other
What to Talk About
How to Support the Talk We Want

Interactive Discussions

Each student is responsible for Articulating their interpretations & ideas
The Lines of Communication are from student to student as well as from student
to teacher
Readers need to be Active Listeners during the discussion
Meaning is Negotiated during the interactions
The quality of the discussion is related to the quality of the literature being
discussed
Utilizes Visual Artifacts & Coding to extend discussions across time
Setting Expectations that are Clear, Transparent & Obtainable

Setting Expectations for Discussions

Honestly Reported
Listening Well & Thinking is As Important As Talking Well
Address Other Students as Well as the Teacher
Half Baked Ideas are Accepted and Encouraged
Consider What Has Been Offered

Why Picturebooks?

Micro-Texts - able to read and discuss complete text in a single session
Contain a wide variety of genres, topics, themes, authors, illustrators, formats,
literary devices
Introduce strategies in familiar contexts
Provide opportunities for discussion of significant topics
Picturebooks draw upon several systems of meaning (text, image, design)
Picturebooks offer a connection between School-Based Literacies and Multi-
Literacies.

Noticings – Connections – Wonderings Chart

Noticings

Connections

Wonderings



Noticings – Meanings – Implications Chart

Noticing

What Might It Mean

So What?



Four (4) Post-Its

1. One Way a Character Changed
2. Something That Challenged You as a Reader
3. Something You Expected
4. Something that was Missing from the Story

Additional Strategies

Graffiti Boards

Insider - Outsider Perspectives

Times When You Feel Like an Insider - Can Directly Relate to What is Happening

Times When You Feel Like an Outsider - Cannot Relate to What is Happening

Story Structures

Speech Bubbles

Story Comics

Word Storms: Have students write down ten words that come to their minds as you are reading a book aloud. Then each student chooses three words and writes a brief reflection concerning their reasons for choosing those three words. Discuss choices and reasons in small groups or whole class.

Word Storms (Ten Words):



Working with Novels

Students read novels or extended texts for homework reading each night.
Reading Novels makes up about 33% of my Reading Life & Class Reading.
Never have used them as whole class set, or round robin reading.
Demonstrate how strategies learned in picturebooks work in novels.

Discussion Strategies for Working with Novels

NoteTaking / NoteMaking / Thinking Trail
Character Timelines
Intertextual Connections
Comparing Covers
Open Coding
Reflecting on Codes
Open Coding - 3 Coders
MySpace for Characters
Literary Dinner Party

Note Taking

Note Taking

Thinking Trail

Comparing Covers

Illustrated book covers are a publisher's or illustrator's interpretation of the characters or story

Using different covers opens up room for multiple interpretations

Covers are a marketing device that responds to social influences

Literary Dinner Party

Have students select a character from a novel

Conduct research on that character (can be real or fictional)

Have students prepare how the character would act, talk & respond

Students decide on appropriate seating arrangements & menus

Conduct dinner party conversations

Reflect with students on how experience worked

Interactive Discussion Techniques

Raising Hands No Longer Necessary to Enter Discussion - "Getting the Floor"

1st Person Plural - Reciprocal Objectives

Notetaking - Post-Its - Coding

Teacher Gaze - Handing Off

Exploratory Pausing (Wait Time)

He Said, She Said, I Think

First we Thought, Now we Think

Re-Voicing / Uptake

Some Favorite Picturebooks For Discussion:

The Library Dragon – Deedy
Wolf – Bloom
The Three Pigs – Weisner
Voices in the Park – Anthony Browne
Wolves – Emily Gravett
Sister Anne’s Hands – Lorbiecki
Arlene Sardine - Raschka
Black & White – Macauley
The Jolly Postman – Ahlberg
What’s Wrong With This Book? – McGuire
The Stinky Cheeseman – Sczieska
Bright & Early Thursday Evening – Audrey Wood
Tuesday – Wiesner
Come Away from the Water, Shirley - Burningham
Zoo – Anthony Browne
Gorilla – Anthony Browne
The Tunnel – Anthony Browne
Dan’s Angel – Loren Childs
Willy’s Pictures – Anthony Browne
Have You See Art – Jon Scieszka
Tar Beach – Faith Ringgold
Smoky Night – Eve Bunting
Night of the Gargoyles – Eve Bunting
Hooray for Diffendoofer Day – Dr. Seuss
The Boy Who Looked Like Lincoln – Mike Reiss
Edward and the Pirates – David McPhail
Little Mouse’s Big Book of Fears – Emily Gravett
Just a Flick of a Finger –Marybeth Lorbiecki
Pish Posh Said Heironymous Bosch – Dillons
Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon – Patty Lovell